

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Ronald W. Hall et al.

Serial No.: 10/717,230

Filed: Nov. 19, 2003

Docket No.: 10971833-3

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING INK TO AN INK JET PRINTING SYSTEM

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2006, in which claims 19-23 and 25-27 were rejected. With this Amendment and Response, claims 19 and 25 have been amended, and claims 26 and 27 have been canceled. Claims 19-23 and 25 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19-23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,751) in view of Powers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,138).

Claims 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,751) in view of Powers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,138), as applied to claims 19 and 25 above, and further in view of Hall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,207).

With regard to independent claim 19, the Office Action alleges that Schmidt et al. discloses a method of providing ink to a printing system (referencing the abstract), the printing system including a docking bay having therein a first fluid inlet for receiving pressurized ink (referencing Fig. 2, element 42); inserting a pump module into the docking bay of the printing system to couple the pump module to the first fluid inlet (referencing Fig. 2, elements 26, 28), the pump module including a second fluid inlet for receiving ink (referencing Fig. 3, element 60); a pressurizing apparatus for increasing the fluid pressure of the ink before providing the ink to the first fluid inlet (referencing Fig. 3, element 26); and coupling an ink container to the second fluid inlet (referencing Fig. 3, element 24). The Office Action acknowledges that Schmidt et al. does not disclose an air purge apparatus or removing air trapped within the pump module using the air purge apparatus. Powers et al. is cited as disclosing an air purge apparatus and removing air trapped within the pump module using the air purge apparatus.

With regard to claims 26 and 27, the Office Action further finds that Schmidt et al., as modified by Powers et al., differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose wherein the pump module includes further keying features and the ink container includes

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corresponding keying features, and wherein the step of coupling the ink container to the second fluid inlet includes: engaging the corresponding keying features of the ink container with the further keying features of the pump module to prevent an incompatible ink container from being coupled to the second fluid inlet. Hall et al. '207 is cited as disclosing the elements missing from the modified Schmidt et al. reference.

With this Amendment, independent claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 26 and 27. Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled from the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Hall et al. '207 reference is not properly considered as prior art against the present application. In particular, the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent application serial number 10/000,050, filed on November 1, 2001, and issued as U.S. Patent number 6,764,169 to Hall et al. (Hall et al. '169). Hall et al. '169 is a divisional application of U.S. Patent application serial number 09/240,152, filed January 29, 1999, and issued as U.S. Patent number 6,322,207 (i.e., the Hall et al. '207 reference). That is, the present application and the Hall et al. '207 reference share a common priority date and specification. Because Hall et al. '207 patent is not prior art against the present application, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26-27 (now presented in amended independent claim 19) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 25 has been amended to conform to the language of amended independent claim 19. In particular, the "keying features" of claim 25 are now referred to as "further keying features" to distinguish from the keying features present in amended claim 19.

Claims 20-23 and 25 each depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 19, which is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, dependent claims 20-23 and 25 are also in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 19-23 and 25 are believed in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Thomas A. Jolly at Telephone No. (541) 715-7331, Facsimile No. (541) 715-8581 or Matthew B. McNutt at Telephone No. (612) 767-2510, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 16th day of June, 2006.

By 
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